**SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION**

**BASIC INFORMATION**

**COURSE NUMBER:** US History 2202.01

**SUBJECT:** US History Since 1865

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2024

**MEETING TIME:** MWF, 9-9:50 AM

**CLASSROOM: MW:** Building 15 (Library Annex), Room 1822; **F** [Online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success)

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** James Ciment

**BOOK:** Foner, Eric. *Give Me Liberty!: An American History* (Seagull Edition), Volume 2, 7th edition

**WEBSITE:** Cimenthistory.com

**EMAIL:** [jdciment@cpp.edu](mailto:jdciment@cpp.edu)

**OFFICE NUMBER:** Building 94, Room 326 and online

**OFFICE HOURS:** M in person and [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/82156807268#success) 7:50-8:50 AM; in person and [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/89926051384#success) 11 AM-12 PM; W in person and [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/81762426152#success) 7:50-8:50 AM; F [online only](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/88536462605#success) 11 AM-12 PM

**WEBSITE AND CANVAS**

Aside from our in-person classes on Mondays and Wednesdays (and my office hours on Monday and Wednesday mornings), this class is based in several online spaces.

1. Canvas: Announcements; Textbook; Syllabus; Writing and discussion assignments; Occasional quizzes and final exam; Grades
2. My website (cimenthistory.com): All non-textbook reading assignments (Click on 2201 button, then click on Course Materials button, then click on week you want, look for Required section on the top right. There are also a supplemental materials sections below for those of you interested in exploring the subject time period further but they are NOT required for the class.
3. Synchronous online classes: Every Friday ([online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057" \l "success)), except August 23, the first day of class, when it is in-person
4. Asynchronous classes: Wednesday, September 18; Monday, September 30; Wednesday, October 9; Wednesday, October 23; Wednesday, November 6; Wednesday, November 20 (see specific weeks under Course Schedule below for links)
5. Virtual office hours (see Office Hours above for links)
6. Email (in case you need to write to me personally; I check it daily)

**OVERVIEW**

This course will cover American history from the end of the Civil War to the present day. You do not need to have taken History 2201 (US History through the Civil War) though it helps to have some familiarity with the history of the United States from colonial times through the Civil War. I’ll fill in background when necessary.

While the course takes a more or less chronological in approach, we will be tackling five broad subject areas throughout. Not necessarily in order of importance, they are:

--Politics and governance

--Economics and Labor

--Identity (Race, Gender, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation)

--Society and Culture

--Foreign Affairs

Some of the questions we will be asking and trying to answer in this course include:

How has America realized the democratic promises of its founders? And why has it often fallen short? What explains our current political polarization?

How has America achieved economic dominance? Why has it been so technologically innovative? And why, at the same time, does it have some of the worst economic inequalities of any industrialized nation?

Why are this country’s race relations so complicated and even painful? What progress has been made in achieving equality for all? And what is left to be done? How has ethnic diversity strengthened, and challenged, America? Why has it taken women so long to approach political and economic parity with men? What gave rise to LGBTQ people insisting on equal rights, and what have they achieved?

What unites us a society? And what divides us? How did American popular culture emerge? What are the origins of mass consumerism?

Why did it take America so long to assert itself on the foreign stage? And what happened once we did? Why is America today so dominant in the world? Has this been a good thing or a not so good thing?

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 0: Introduction to the Course**

Topic:

Introduction to the course

Lecture: Friday, August 23

Readings:

This syllabus, plus familiarize yourself with the website, the textbook, and Canvas

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

None

**PART I: AMERICA IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY**

**Week 1-2: “A New Birth (and death) of Freedom”--Reconstruction and Jim Crow, 1860s-1890s**

Topics:

Emancipation and Reconstruction

Redemption and the Rise of Jim Crow

Lectures:

Monday, August 26 (in person); Wednesday, August 28 (in person); Friday, August 30 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success)): Monday, September 2 (no class, Labor Day); Wednesday, September 4 (in person); Friday: September 6 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: Chapter 15 (Chapter: “What is Freedom?”: Reconstruction, 1865-1877); pps. 661-673 (Section: The Segregated South); 767-772 (Subsections: The Color Line, Roosevelt, Wilson and Race, W.E.B. Du Bois and the Revival of Black Protest, Military Service and the Promise of Freedom, The Great Migration and the “Promised Land,” Racial Violence, North and South; Rise of Garveyism

Class Website for Weeks 1-2: Freedmen’s Petition, Black Code, Lynch Law, Negro Question

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Reconstruction Theater; Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 1

**Week 3: “Gilded Age”--Industrialization and Labor Movement, 1860s-1900s**

Topics:

Rise of Industrial Capitalism

Labor Movement and Industrial Conflict

Lectures:

Monday, September 9 (in person); Wednesday, September 11 (in person); Friday, September 13 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: pps. 605-627 (Chapter Intro and Sections: America’s Gilded Age, The Second industrial Revolution; Freedom in the Gilded Age; Freedom in the Gilded Age; Labor and the Republic); pps. 705-711 (Subsections: Industrial Freedom; The Socialist Presence; The Gospel of Debs; AFL and IWW; New Immigrants on Strike; Labor and Civil Liberties)

Class Website for Week 3: Carnegie Memoir; Samuel Gompers: What Does the Working Man Want?; *Lochner v. New York* Supreme Court Decision

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Freedom of Contract speech; Due: Midnight, Tuesday, September 10

**Week 4: “Manifest Destiny”--Transformation of the West, 1860s-1890s**

Topics:

Displacement and Cultural Genocide of the American Indian

Populism in the American West

Lectures:

Monday, September 16 (in person); Wednesday, September 18 (synchronous: see Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday, September 20 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: pps. 627-644 (Section: Transformation of the West, including sidebars on pps. 638-639); pps.653-61 (Section: The Populist Challenge)

Class Website for Week 4: “Kill the Indian and Save the Man;” Zitkala-Sa Memoir; Populist Party Platform

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Genocide and the American Indian; Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 15

**Week 5: “Huddled Masses”--Immigration and Urbanization: 1870s-1910s**

Topics:

Immigration from Another Europe

The Rise of the City and Urban Culture

Lectures: Monday, September 23 (in person); Wednesday, September 25 (in person); Friday, September 27 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: pps. 695-705 (Section: An Urban Age and a Consumer Society); 760-766 (Section: Who is an American?

Class Website for Week 5: Passing of the Great Race; Bintel Brief; Photos: Urban Scenes of Early 20th Century America (images)

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Immigration by the Numbers; Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 22

PART II: AMERICA IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY

**Week 6: “Muckrakers” and “Trust Busters”--Progressive Era, 1900s-1910s**

Topics:

Rise of Liberalism

A New Activist Government

Lectures:

Monday, September 30 (asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Wednesday, October 2; Friday, October 4 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: Chapter 18 (The Progressive Era)

Class Website for Week 6: Progressive Era Cartoons

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

The Progressive Era in Cartoons; Due: Midnight, Sunday, September 29

**Week 7: “White Man’s Burden”/”Over There”--Imperialism and World War I, 1890s-1910s**

Topics:

The “White Man’s Burden”

To Make the World “Safe for Democracy”

Lectures:

Monday, October 7 (in person); Wednesday, October 9 (Asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday, October 11(synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: pps. 678-690 (Section: Becoming a World Power); Chapter 19 (Safe for Democracy)

Class Website for Week 7: Rudyard Kipling: “White Man’s Burden”; Mark Twain: Anti-Imperialism; Woodrow Wilson: War Declaration; Senator Borah’s Speech against League of Nations.

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Imperialism in Poetry; Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 6

**Week 8: “Birth of the Modern”—The 1920s**

Topics:

“The Business of the American People is Business”

Jazz Age vs. That Good Old-Fashioned Religion

Lectures:

Monday, October 14 (in person); Wednesday, October 16 (in person); Friday, October 18: (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: Chapter 20 (From Business Culture to Great Depression, Except Section: The Great Depression, pps. 815-821)

Class Website for Week 8: Allen: Only Yesterday; Bryan: Closing Remarks at the Scopes Trial

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Culture Wars of the 1920s; Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 13

**Week 9: ”Worst Hard Time”-- Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929-1941**

Topics:

“Fear Itself”

Economic Recovery and a New Deal

Lectures:

Monday, October 21 (in person); Wednesday, October 23 (asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday, October 25 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: pps. 815-821 (Section: The Great Depression); Chapter 21 (New Deal)

Class Website for Week 9: Roosevelt Fireside Chat on Banking; Children’s Letters to Roosevelt; Huey Long, Share the Wealth speech; Roosevelt’s Social Security Act signing statement

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Fireside Chat; Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 20

**Week 10: “The Good Fight”--World War II**

Topics:

On the Battle and Diplomatic Fronts

On the Home Front

Lectures:

Monday, October 28 (in person); Wednesday, October 30 (in person); Friday: November 1 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: Chapter 22 (Fighting for the Four Freedoms)

Class Website for Week 10: Four Freedoms speech

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Propaganda and War; Due: Midnight, Sunday, October 27

PART III: AMERICA SINCE WORLD WAR II

**Week 11: “Iron Curtain”--Cold War and Red Scare, 1940s-1960s**

Topics:

Foreign Affairs

Domestic Scares

Lectures:

Monday, November 4 (in person); TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5: BE SURE TO VOTE!; Wednesday, November 6 (asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab); Friday; November 8 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Chapter 23 (The United States and the Cold War); pps.969-974 (Subsections: Massive Retaliation; Ike and the Russians; Emergence of the Third World; The Global Cold War; Origins of the Vietnam War; pps. 997-999 (Section Intro: The Kennedy Years, subsections: Kennedy and the World; Missile Crisis)

Class website for Week 11: Kennan’s Long Telegram, Joseph McCarthy Speech and Letter

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Inevitability of the Cold War); Due: Midnight, Sunday, November 3

**Week 12: “Baby Boom”—Conformism and Counterculture, 1940s-1960s**

Topics:

From Conformism to Counterculture

Vietnam War

Lectures:

Monday, November 11 (no class, Veterans Day); Wednesday, November 13 (in person); Friday, November 15 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success)); Monday, November 18 (in person)

Readings:

Chapter 24 (An Affluent Society, up to page 969); pps. 974-977 (Subsections: Mass Society and Its Critics; Rebels without a Cause; The Beats); pps. 1011-1020 (Section: Vietnam and the New Left)

Class Website for Week 12: Allen Ginsburg Poem: “Howl”; Mario Savio Speech; Martin Luther King, Jr.: Speech on Vietnam War

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Gender Relations and the TV Sitcom; Due: Midnight, November 10

**Week 13: “Eyes on the Prize”--Civil Rights Movement and Black Power, 1940s-1960s**

Topics:

The Struggle in the South

The Movement Moves North

Lectures:

Wednesday, November 20 (Asynchronous: See Canvas, Modules tab; Quiz under Quizzes tab) Friday, November 22: synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success); Monday, November 25 (in person)

Readings:

Text: pps. 977-989 (Section: Freedom Movement); pps. 992-1004 (The Sixties); pps. 1007-1011 (Section: Changing Black Movement)

Class Website for Week 13: Stokely Carmichael’s “Black Power” Speech; Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Two Speeches: King v. Carmichael); Due: Midnight, Tuesday, November 19

**Week 14: “The Times They Are a Changin’”--Social and Political Movements, 1960s-1970s**

Topics:

Women’s Movement

Gay Liberation Movement

Lectures:

Wednesday, November 27 (in person); Friday, November 29 (no class, Thanksgiving); Monday, December 2 (in person)

Readings:

Text: pps. 1020-1033 (Section: The New Movements and the Rights Revolution; 1968)

Class Website for Week 14: Advice to Housewives; Feminine Mystique; Gay Manifesto; Shirley Chisholm Speech on Equal Rights Amendment; Interview with Carlos Montes.

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Social and Political Manifestoes); Due: Midnight, Tuesday, November 26

**Week 15: “Morning in America”--Era of “Malaise” and the Rise of the New Conservatism, 1970s-1990s**

Topics:

Carter and the Era of Malaise

Reagan’s America to Clinton’s Triangulation

Lectures:

Wednesday, December 4 (in person); Friday, December 6 (synchronous [online](https://cpp.zoom.us/s/85741033057#success))

Readings:

Text: Chapter 26 (Conservative Turn) and Chapter 27 (A New World Order); Optional: Chapter 28 (A Divided Nation) to bring you up to the present

Class Website for Week 15: Jimmy Carter’s Crisis of Confidence Speech; Conservative Documents

Writing and Discussion Assignment:

Polls and Rising Distrust in Government; Due: Midnight, Tuesday, December 3

**ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING AND ATTENDANCE**

**Readings:** You are expected to have all the readings and the writing/discussion assignment completed by midnight on Sundays (or Tuesdays, see schedule above) before the week in question.

**Quizzes:** You are required to take a brief quiz after viewing each of the asynchronous online lectures; these will only be used to determine that you viewed the lecture. There will be no quizzes based on in person or synchronous online lectures.

**Writing and Discussion Assignments:** It is very important to complete the short assignments connected to each week’s readings (these will be available on each week of the website and the Assignments tab of Canvas), as this will be the basis for our discussions that week (I will be calling on people at random to present their assignments). Submit all assignments on Canvas by midnight on the Sunday prior to the first lecture for that week. So, for example, the week 3 assignment is due by midnight, Sunday, February 5.

REMEMBER**:** You must always be looking to the week ahead to see what is due that week. For example, if we are in week 3, you should be looking to week 4 to see what is due the next week.

**Longer Assignments for Each of the 3 Parts of the Course:** There will be 3 longer writing assignments related to the three parts of the course: American in the Late 19th Century (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, September 29); America in the First Half of the 20th Century (Paper due: midnight, Sunday, November 3); America Since World War II: (Paper due: Sunday, December 8); Details about the assignments to come. When ready, the assignments will be found under the Assignments tab on Canvas. Submit all assignments on Canvas.

**Final (Online):**

Wednesday, December 11, 9-10:50 AM (details to come later)

(Note: there is NO MID-TERM for this class.)

**GRADES**

**Weekly Assignments:** 25 percent of grade

**Quizzes for Asynchronous Lectures:** No grade but one percent off for each that you don’t take

**Papers:** Each is worth 15 percent of your grade, for a total of 45 percent

**Final Exam:** 30 percent of grade

**ABSENCE AND TARDY POLICY**

**Absences:** One unexcused absence, no penalty. Every absence after that counts for 2 points off your total grade score.